

April 1, 2009

Congressman Lamar Smith 2409 Rayburn HOB US House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

We appreciate your strong support of the Witte Museum and its role as an educational resource for the 400,000 people who visit the museum each year, of which 160,000 are school-age children. As a constituent institution, we are asking you to request that the Appropriations Committee provide \$1,000,000 in funding for the development of exhibits in the IMLS account of Labor, HHS Appropriation bill for the upcoming South Texas Heritage Center, which will provide the families and visitors to South Texas a sense of place in their engagement of the region's history. This request is a valid use of taxpayer funds as it is consistent with IMLS' stated mission to connect people to the "information and ideas" that are the foundation of their "heritage and culture."

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Marise McDermott

President and CEO

